Welfare schemes for senior citizens

427. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes being implemented for the benefit of senior citizens;

(b) whether any amount has been earmarked in the budget for the welfare of senior citizens;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT ,(DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) There are two welfare schemes under which the grant in aid through non-governmental organizations is given for the welfare of older persons.

(i) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons:-Under this scheme this Ministry provides grant in aid/financial assistance to the eligible non-governmental organizations for establishment and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units & Non Institutional Service Centres. During the current year 2001-02, against provision of Rs. 13.50 crores, Rs. 11 crores has been utilized so far.

(ii) Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organizations/ Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons:- Under this scheme grant in aid is provided to eligible non-governmental organizations for construction of Old Age Home and Multi Service Centres. In 2001 - 2002, against a provision of Rs. 1.14 crores Rs. 1.12 crores has been utilized so far.

(d) Does not arise.

Guidelines for adoption of children

428. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state the new guidelines to safeguard the interest of adopted children especially by foreigners in view of protests seen at several places against adoption racket going on?